A STATE DISCOVRSE

vpon the late hurt of the *French* King.

Faithfully tranſlated out of French, by E. A.

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¶ *To the moſt noble Lord, the Lord of Harlay, one of the Kings priuy e Counſaile, & of the Counſaile of Eſtate, knight: Prince of the Senate of Paris, and chiefe Iudge of the Realme.*

MY Lord, the League is a diſeaſe as ſurely vnited to french mindes, as the feuer is vnto the corrupt humours of vnſound bodies: and in conſideration hereof, I haue framed this diſcourſe, wherein the remedie is more apparant then the diſeaſe it ſelfe, in caſe rebellious eyes wil vouchſafe to imparte it to their mindes, who hauing digeſted the ſame, ſhall finde themſelues cured & me ſatisfied: the rather if your ſelfe like hereof, aſwell as you are deuoted to the kinges ſeruice. In hope wherof I ſhall pray vnto God (my Lord) to graunt vnto you his grace, & vnto me yours.

Your moſt affectionat ſeruant,

Pont-dimery.

A STATE DISCOVRSE, *vpon the late hurt of the French* KING.

Frica no longer engendreth monſters. The Ayre of *Europe* conceiueth them: *France* nouriſheth & bringeth them vp: *Spayne* aduoweth them: and *Italy* ſanctifieth thē: of Baſtards ſhe legitimateth them: and of ſimple vntimely birthes, maketh them perfect men: By them is Chriſtiandome moleſted: Chriſtianitie ſcandalized & the Church deuided. To be ſhort, all orders ſo peruerted, that traitors are named Confederates: ſeditious perſons, good Catholickes: Newters, truſtie and well aduiſed perſons: Rebels, nualls in eſtate: ſeruants, home-borne Children: ſtrangers, naturall and originaryes of the Realme: yea euen ſupporters of the eſtate & pillers of the Church: Euery one complayneth of the diſeaſe, but no man ſeeketh remedie. The Gangrene taketh holde of the vlcer, & in liew of a burning coroſiue they applie hardes dipped in oyle and viniger. Phiſitions ſcorne the diſeaſed perſon, and the ſearch of the Surgions penetrateth not to the quicke: Nature ſeeketh to ouercome the violence of the ſickneſſe, and no man ſecondeth her. The medicines are contrary vnto it: The criſis or iudgement is not noted: None is in doubt vpon the thing that is not feared:

Feare neuer ſurmounteth deſire, deſire ſurpaſſeth dutie: & to conclude in one worde, all things are indifferent to a ſoule euil borne, & to a corrupt & depraued minde: We had bene loſt if we had not ſo bene. The felicitie of *France* is like the *Phœnix*: who in her death procureth an other borne like to her ſelfe, and out of her mortall aſhes draweth a flame of life which cannot be quenched in her poſteritie.

The late King of happie memory, when he relieued vs found himſelfe ouer-whelmed: In eaſing vs, he found him ſelfe oppreſsed: and returning vs into life, himſelfe dyed. He dyed I ſay, not in the middeſt of his victories: but in the beginning of his tryumphs he ſtumbled vpon the ruynes of his enimyes: and he found none ſo repugnant to his good, as thoſe whoſe ſafetie & peace himſelfe had eſtabliſhed: The ſoules of the rebels do yet ſigh in the playnes of *Iarnac* and *Moncontour*, & do ariſe againſt the murderer that ſlue him, becauſe ſuſpicion hath condemned them: yet this treſpaſse it ſelf is not able to make this man guilty, euen in the ſight of thoſe for whō this great King abandoned his lyfe to ſo many hazards which the heauēs prognoſticated vnto vs: whoſe vertues were inuincible, whoſe victoryes were moſt certaine: to whome the ouerthrowes of his were vnknowne: & his triumphes domeſticall & daylye. With him was infamye a ſtranger, & re[illegible] gither inuiolable & moſt holy: Our cowardlyneſſe [illegible]eated him, whome the enimies army durſt neuer [illegible]d the Church who had loſt her voice, had not he [illegible]rument thereto, hath iniuriouſly condemned him. [illegible]ction is extreame, the exceſſe ſtealeth away the cre[illegible] honour is ingadged: The poſteritye will diſadvo[illegible]x ſuch as ſhall be borne of vs into this worlde, ſha[illegible]are in a better to name themſelues our children, Ye[illegible]ying of the *Poet* will be found true.

Thou not h[illegible]oune who thy father is tearmed,
In thy m[illegible]s bed thy perſon was changed:
Or in ad[illegible] thy ſelfe wert conceiued,
And by m[illegible]ing, here wert thou receiued.

Againe, it i[illegible] knowne what enterpriſes and practiſes haue bene wrough[illegible] againſt his Maieſtie who now reigneth, whome

whome the heauens do ſo manifeſtlye fauour, that all that doubt thereofare Athieſts,and ſuch as doe not admire & reuerence him, euen prophane & vngodly perſons. We may euidently perceiue and as it were palpablye feele, that many gouernours haue their perticuler deuiſes concerning the K. death, & eaſilye may we iudge how much they are deceiued, conſidering the onely iniuſtice of their conceits doth confound them, that the apprehenſion thereof dooth deſtroye them, and that their conſciences do torment them with a ſcourge, which ingratitude layeth about their ſhoulders,as an inſtrument deſtined to that onely end. I beſeech you tell me, what became of the inheritours, not of the deſert but of the dominions of great *Alexander?* All the Princes & Lords of *Grece* thought to finde a ſecond life in his firſt death: but hardly was himſelfe buried, before they were all found in their graues: In ſtead of gaine, reaping nothing but repentance: for a kingdome, the deſire of one: for aſſurance, diſpaire: for a place of retract, the tombe: & for choiſe from bad to better, onlye death. Such were *Eumenes, Demetrius, Ptolomie, Antigonus, Seleuchus,* of whom ſome loſt both liues & kingdomes, & ſome endured tribulations more forcible, and torments more cruell and bitter then death. And therfore that Poet, ſemeth to haue ſome reaſon, that ſaid:

A Captaine for glory it maye well beſeeme,
After his conqueſt ſtill to ſutuiue:
Or if by fortune men daunted him deeme,
In fame of vertue after death to reuiue.

What will become of ſo many ingratefull Lordes if our prince ſhould miſcarie: or what will become euen of the princes themſelues, when all obedience is violated, ſubiection buried, the ambitiõ of perticuler perſons encreaſed, malice in generall accompliſhed, and diſorder perfected? Among the princes of *Italy* ſome doe acknowledge the empire, and ſome are of the popes homage: They can encurre no diſpleaſure neyther ſuſteine any iniury, but either the one or the other will ſupport them: but who ſhall protect theſe men, conſidering that only one *Charles* the fift triumphed ouer all the princes of *Germanie* within the ſpace of four monthes,

who

who in effect & apparance had all bene loſt, had it not beene for the ſuccour that they receiued from *Henry* the ſecond? If they frame the ſubſtance or bodye of an army, who ſhall be the head? If they haue none, who can fight without a head? But if there be a head, who will endure it, conſidering they coulde not brooke a lawfull King? And in the meane tyme what ſhall become of the people? Shall not they be led as beares or bulles by the noſes to be the paſtimes of the paſſions of ſome *Chaſtelaine* or warder, in whoſe forhead tirannie ſhalbe written with the verie blood of his fellow *Citizens?* yea whereto ſhall the church be reduced, when euery ſouldier wilbe curat of his owne village, & euery Captaine Byſhop of his owne garriſon? Where I beſeech you ſhall wee finde labour, & due reward for the ſame? May tirantes reſt in ſaftie, where kinges are debarred that felicitie? will men practize that courſe toward them which they haue abhorred toward others? Counſailers & Preſidēts ſhould become factionaries to thoſe that liue vnder their iuriſdictions: and they that are the protection of kinges ſhould liue vnder the halbarde of ſome Corporal, or paraduenture of ſome watchman or ſcout.

All this had almoſt come to paſſe in the hurt of our King (whom heauen would in our behalfs immortalize, in caſe our ſelues were as worthy as his deſertes doe bind vs to wiſh it & our neceſſities do inuite vs) His death would haue quailed our libertie: his fall would haue ouerwhelmed our felicitie: his loſſe would haue made deſolate our families: his abſence woulde haue acquainted vs with that which wee feare: his ſhipwrack would haue ſwallowed vs vp: and the breaking of ſo great a body would haue bred a rocke in *Europe* whereupon Saint Peters ſhip would haue bene quite ſplit and vtterly wrecked. Beleeue me not my maiſters: I woulde to God I might be found a lyer in all that I am to tell you. And this is it: namely that certaine Capucines, Feuilians & other fryers of this towne dare freely confeſſe that they neuer pray vnto God for the King: becauſe (ſay they) the pope hath not abſolued him: as if it were lawfull for him to condemne innocency: to iudge of that which is not in controuerſie: & to alienate from Gods grace the perſon that in ſuch humilitie

doth

doth beg it: That ſurely ther is ſuperſtition in this ſo vaine & preſumptuous rigour, conſidering all counſailes doe maintaine that it is not the Bull that excommunicateth the man, but the fault: alſo that the fault is taken away when repentance taketh place, which ſerueth as a beginning of abſolution and an end of puniſhment (my ſpeech is of the ſame which ſpirituall Iudges may inflict) why doe they therefore endeuour to bewitch our ſoules, by miniſtring vnto them a food ſo vnſeaſonable for a chriſtian, who ought to pardon the offence euen before it bee accompliſhed, and rather to complaine and grow bitter againſt the peruers nature of the perſecuter, then to returne vpon the perſecuted: for it is writen: *I will wait vntill the Sunne goe downe, and I will be a light vnto his ſteps, leaſt he ſhould fall*. The Curates of all pariſhes do powre foorth their praiers to God for the King: All lawes both of God and man doe ordaine the ſame: And his benefites doe in generall bind vs thereunto: yet ſhall theſe men as rebels and men guiltie of treaſon make a diuorce in the church & eſcape, I wil not ſay vnpuniſhed, but euē vnreproued? The kinges ſubiectes doe feed them: yea the kinges them ſelues haue eſtabliſhed them: and now ſhall they vpon ſome barbarous error, togither with a malitious pretence, free themſelues from that duety wherto nature bindeth them and the generall ſocietie of men doth call them? Shall they commit ſuch impietie only in France: becauſe the contempt of the lawes & royal dignitie is ſo great that the princes are not regarded but vpō humours: neither the laws obſerued, but for a faſhion, & yet that alſo rather in aparance thē in effect? The ſimple people whoſe minde is not capable of any profound reaſoning & which beleueth no more then it ſelf imagineth, is incontinently drawen to the purpoſe of theſe fryers, who for bread doe preach vnto them a reuolt: terrifying the weaker conſciences, & ſhaking the beaſt founded by I wot not what manner of threatning, which ſerueth as a torture to deuout conſciences, an ambuſh to the kings life, trouble to the common wealth, and argument of ſuperſtition and offence to the Church, whoſe iuſt & holy weapons are neuer emploied againſt ſuch as acknowledge their dueties to her, and liuing vnder her ſtanderd are reſolued there vnder to fight, e-

uen

uen to the death. Can any thing be more impertinent or of a more cowardly diſpoſition, then that ſome of the kings officers who barking at the ſhadowes of Miters & red hattes with eloquence rather artificiall then naturall & with farther fetches then reaſon, haue hitherto maintained the Ieſuites with ſuch feruency that they enflamed the ſpeches of theyr maiſters faithfull ſeruants & conuerted thē into ſmoke, euē at ſuch time as the kings life was in queſtion, & that mē proteſted againſt them in reſpect of the ſmale accompt that they made, to the end they might reſt in credite with the pope & his formall creatures the Ieſuites? A little thing woulde make me to tearme you the vnthankfull Pyes or Iayes of this great cadge: I haue couradge enough to vndertake it & more then ſufficient argument to put it in effect: But I will forbeare you, for the honor of *France*, as alſo for that albeit yee eſcape the hand of man, yet is not Gods hand ſubiect to any palſey: you ſhal haue no greater enemies then your ſelues: & albeit your offices & dignities doe free you from temporall puniſhment, yet wil men iudge you worthy therof. For the puniſhment make not the martir but the cauſe: but it is ennough that your ententes do make you parties, & that al the worlde doth ſee that you haue wrongfully ſupported the Ieſuites, out of whoſe houſe as out of an Arcenal or Storehouſe is iſſued that accurſed piece, who in only one perſon had almoſt with lightening kindled al *France* from whēce al *Europe* ſhould haue bene ſet in combuſtion & in ſuch vniuerſall deſolation your ſelues (as I think) haue bene brought into ruine. yet doth one thing put me in comfort & make mee to hope wel: namely that our maiſters of *Paris* haue in this laſt eſſay of treaſon made full proofe of their fidelitie. For there was not any familye but reioiced at the preſeruation of the king and the puniſhment of the paricide. The ſalutations by bonfyers & praiers, in that reſpect powred foorth, do induce a perpetual obliuion of al former tranſgreſſiōs of the enhabitants of *Paris*, who in one onely night haue made a perfect day of that credit which his mieſty is to take of their ſeruice, wherein affection ſitteth as preſident, with ſo much truthe, that the teſtimonie therof is wonderfull, & the hope of their continuance certaine and infallible. Finis.